

Washington, DC - Congressman Jeff Fortenberry has introduced legislation that would prevent taxation of livestock gas emissions. In a document released last summer, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identified regulating livestock emissions as an option in addressing greenhouse gas concerns.

“As climate change issues are debated, the consideration of a tax on natural livestock emissions is unreasonable and peculiar,” Fortenberry said.

“On the climate change front, it is clear that we must fully integrate conservation, new technologies, and a variety of renewable sources into our energy strategy, and sound agricultural practices can play a critical role in good land stewardship,” Fortenberry said. “But it would be unwise to have punitive measures against natural emissions from livestock.”

The Fortenberry bill would protect agricultural producers from livestock emissions fines or fees proposed by any federal agency. Livestock is Nebraska's top industry, and the state is one of the largest beef producers in the nation. One in every five steaks and hamburgers is produced in Nebraska.

Fortenberry is a member of the House Agriculture Committee.

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